

# PRESTON UNDER SCAR PARISH COUNCIL

## Cemetery Regulations (updated February 2016)

*The Parish Council is anxious that families of loved ones to be buried should have a suitable and fitting memorial in keeping with the area, with the wishes and interests of the deceased, and mindful of the families of adjacent plot holders. With this in mind the Council has approved the following regulations:*

### **Background**

Preston under Scar cemetery was opened in 1925 in place of Wensley Churchyard which was full. The land was donated by Lord Bolton to the parish of Preston under Scar for use as a cemetery. Several generations of villagers are buried there, making it a place to be treated with dignity and respect.

Preston under Scar cemetery belongs to Preston under Scar Parish Council. Its use is chiefly regulated by the Burial Act 1853, the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government Cemeteries Order 1977/ 204.

These cemetery regulations are issued by the Parish Council to preserve the rights of the majority.

The Parish Council should always be consulted via the Clerk in relation to cemetery matters.

Information regarding fees may be obtained from the Clerk.

### **Reservation of Plots**

Any resident of the parish of Preston under Scar has, subject to the availability of space and payment of the appropriate fees, the right of burial or of the interment of their ashes, or a right, at anytime, to reserve a plot for their burial or interment of their ashes, in the cemetery.

Any non-resident of the parish who dies in the parish has, subject to the availability of space and payment of the appropriate fees, the right of burial or of the interment of their ashes in the Preston under Scar Cemetery.

Any resident to whom the Parish Council has granted by a Deed of Grant a right of burial or the interment of ashes in a designated plot in the cemetery is entitled to retain that right even if they cease to be a resident of the parish.

Any other requests for burial or interment of ashes are granted at the sole discretion of the Parish Council.

A Right of Burial or of the Interment of Ashes granted by a Deed of Grant issued by the Preston under Scar Parish Council, is the sole property of the Grantee(s) named in the Deed and the Right

may not be given, sold, or otherwise transferred to any third party(s) other than to the Parish Council.

In the event that a Grantee(s) or family of a Grantee(s) decides they no longer require their reserved plot, the Parish Council would appreciate it if the Grantee(s) or the family of the Grantee(s) would make it known to the Parish Council and return their Deed of Grant.

### **Interment of Ashes**

The Parish Council have set aside an area of land in the cemetery specifically for the interment of ashes.

The area of land will be subdivided in to plots each sufficient to accommodate a maximum of two urns.

The plot may be covered with a cremation memorial stone. See the section on memorials for further details.

Persons wishing to have their ashes interred in a grave plot may do so; a grave plot will accommodate two urns.

### **Plots**

All plots occupied or unused, remain the property of the Parish Council.

### **Fees**

A fee is payable to the Parish Council for each burial, for each interment of ashes and for each plot reservation; details of fees are set out in the appendix to these regulations.

Fees are non-returnable.

Fees include a a right of burial, and a right, subject to these regulations, to erect a headstone, or cremation memorial stone as appropriate.

Fees applicable for the burial or interment of ashes of persons who before their demise had at some time been a long term resident of the Parish and who, for personal reasons, had cause to move away from the Parish, shall be considered by the Parish Council on a case by case basis

### **Memorials**

Before any headstone, or cremation memorial stone shall be erected or set in position, a monumental mason or other representative of the deceased must apply in writing to the Clerk of the Parish Council, submitting a formal detailed working drawing of the proposed headstone or cremation memorial stone, including details of the materials and finish to be used, the method by which it is to be mounted and secured and of all lettering and other decoration or colour to be used. Such application shall be considered at a meeting of the Parish Council.

If the application is approved by the Parish Council, the Clerk shall notify the applicant in writing of that approval. Headstones and cremation memorial stones shall not be erected without approval having first been given. This procedure shall also be followed if any further inscription is required at a later date.

The Parish Council reserves the right to require the removal of any headstone or cremation memorial stone for which permission has not been given .

It is recommended that a period of six months following the burial or interment be allowed for the ground to settle before the erection of any memorial or the placing of a cremation memorial stone over ashes .

Headstones should be between 600mm and 1000mm high and 450mm and 600mm wide and between 75mm and 150mm thick. Headstones should be bedded into the ground to a sufficient depth to ensure stability, or securely mounted on a base stabilised by two stainless steel pegs extending at least 300mm into the ground.

Cremation memorial stones to placed over ashes interred in the area of ground reserved for that purpose shall be rectangular, shall not exceed 35cm by 35cm and must be set level with the ground surface to permit grass cutting.

Subject to these regulations, ashes interred in a grave, may be marked by either a cremation memorial stone or a headstone.

While fresh flowers are preferred, artificial flowers will be accepted providing they are in good condition, but will be removed once they have faded. The planting of spring bulbs is permitted.

Tributes must not in anyway interfere with mechanical grass cutting. Tributes will be removed if they are judged to interfere with cemetery maintenance and if they suffer excessive deterioration

### Maintenance

Cemetery maintenance is the Parish Council's responsibility. The Parish Council is grateful that many families tend graves and so enhance the appearance of the cemetery.

Trees, shrubs or plants must not be planted on a grave, nor can a grave be marked by kerbs, railings, borders or chippings. This is to allow for ease of mechanical grass cutting.

### Safety

Families are responsible for ensuring the future safety of any headstones on family graves. If no family exists, the Parish Council will assume responsibility for headstone safety.

The Parish Council is obliged regularly to test the stability of headstones. Any insecure stones will be stabilised to make them safe and if possible the family will be contacted to arrange their permanent security. If an insecure headstone cannot be easily stabilised, the Parish Council reserve

the right to lay it down or to take such other necessary action for safety and will if possible advise the family of the need for their attention to the headstone's situation.

For reasons of Health and Safety glass and ceramic vases are not permitted. Any found will be removed.

## Appendix: Preston under Scar Cemetery Fees May 2015

	Below 16 years	Residents*	Non-residents
Burial	No charge	£350	£700
Ashes interred in a grave	No charge	£350	£700
Ashes interred elsewhere	No charge	£175	£350

Notes: \* Please refer to the section in the Regulations dealing with Fees for the burial or interment of ashes of previous long-term residents.